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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. [redacted] from Marienborn (Y20) northward to Oebisfelde (Y23), the demarcation line is guarded by a regiment of "Stalin Cadets".
2. Another regiment of "Stalin Cadets" guards the line from Marienborn southwards to Ilsenburg (D06).
3. It was in mid-August 1948 that these regiments relieved the ordinary troops who had been there on frontier duty for many months.
4. Hitherto "Stalin Cadets" had been seen only as NCOs, being distinguished from ordinary NCOs by the officers'-type cap and Sam Browne belt which they wore, and by a special badge on the right breast.
5. The two regiments referred to above, however, are composed entirely of "Stalin Cadets". All non-commissioned ranks wear the standard EC cap, but retain the officers'-type Sam Browne belt. No badge is worn on the right breast, but on the shoulder-board (red with black piping) there is a red Soviet star not carried by other troops.
6. The privates of these two regiments are noticeably better educated than their predecessors on the zonal boundary, and speak in general far better German. They are said to have the rights and duties of officers.

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